

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1800 - HB 2260**

February 25, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Defines “blighted property”, requires that prior to commencement of any eminent domain action to remediate blight, the owner must be cited for at least one of the conditions within the definition of blight and must have the opportunity to rehabilitate the property. Requires a condemning authority to pay reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and other related costs to a property owner when the final judgment is more than 40 percent greater than the last written offer of compensation made by the condemning authority. Authorizes the court to award reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and other related costs to a property owner when the final judgment is more than 20 percent but less than 40 percent greater than the last written offer of compensation.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$5,000\***

**Other Fiscal Impact – The provisions of the bill could result in litigation costs for the state. It is unknown how often or to what extent those costs may occur; therefore a precise fiscal impact cannot be determined. Any increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$5,000 per case. Due to multiple unknown variables, a precise impact to state and local government for any delay in initiating eminent domain proceedings cannot reasonably be determined.**

Assumptions:

- According to the Attorney General and the Department of Transportation, the provisions of the bill will increase the number of cases that will be litigated. A precise increase in state expenditures is indeterminable, however is reasonably estimated to exceed \$5,000 per case.
- Due to unknown variables, such as how many local government entities will be responsible for paying attorney fees, expenses, and other related costs, and the extent of any such fees assessed on local governments a precise increase in local government expenditures cannot be determined, however is reasonably estimated to exceed \$5,000 statewide.
- The bill requires the owner of the property to be cited for at least one offense listed in the definition of blighted property and given an opportunity to rehabilitate the cited property prior to any proceedings being initiated.

- The provisions of the legislation narrow the current definition of blighted or deteriorated property, such that entities with eminent domain authority may experience increased difficulty initiating eminent domain against such properties.
- Due to multiple unknown factors, such as how many governmental entities will be delayed in initiating eminent domain proceedings, how any such delay may impact development, the extent any delay in development may impact state and local government, a precise impact to state and local government due to any delay in initiation of eminent domain is indeterminable.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jrh